

# **CLAIMS**

What is claimed is:

1. A tire component comprising: (1) a microencapsulated reactant and (2) a  
5 reaction facilitator.
  
2. A process for forming tire components having improved durability, the  
process comprising the steps of:  
    providing a tire component matrix;  
10     encapsulating a reactant to form microcapsules;  
    selecting a reaction facilitator capable of facilitating the polymerization of the  
reactant; and  
    adding the microcapsules and the reaction facilitator to the tire component  
matrix.  
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3. A banded tire having a band element comprising: (1) a microencapsulated  
reactant and (2) a reaction facilitator.